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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General says he cannot recommend "at this moment" that Security Council renew UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia; awaits report from Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference, who will be visiting the region.

+ Recent hostilities between Bosnian Croats and Government forces in central Bosnia and Herzegovina involve "massive and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law", says new report by Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights.

+ UNDP's Human Development Report 1993 proposes economic security council to tackle long-term development issues; stresses participation by people in society; deals with changing concept of security.

+ UNTAC deploys 1,400 International Polling Station Officers in Cambodia for elections beginning coming Sunday; number of polling sites cut in half because of security risks; UNTAC standing firm, spokesman says.

+ Secretary-General, in message to Hague Conference on Private International Law, cites proposed war crimes tribunal for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

+ Preparatory Committee for 1995 Conference on Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons decides to hold Conference in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995; schedules three more preparatory sessions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that "it would not be advisable" for him at the moment to make recommendations on the future mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia, which expires at the end of June. He is awaiting the report of Thorvald Stoltenberg, his Special Envoy, who will be visiting the region. Mr. Stoltenberg, who

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succeeded Cyrus Vance, shares the Chairmanship of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia with Lord Owen, the European Community negotiator.

The UNPROFOR was established by the Security Council in February 1992 for one year to oversee the return of the Serb-controlled "pink zones" to Croatian authority. Its mandate has been extended twice on an interim basis pending a cease-fire agreement between the two sides.

In his report to the Council, dated 15 May, the Secretary-General said there were three options for UNPROFOR's future mandate in Croatia, none of which were feasible given the highly volatile situation not only in Croatia, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first option, to withdraw UNPROFOR from the region, "would almost certainly lead to resumption of hostilities", he said. The second option, to expand UNPROFOR considerably in order to give it powers to oblige the Serbs to comply with the Security Council's demands, as the Croats have suggested, "would be tantamount to putting UNRPOFOR at war with the Serbs" in the United Nations Protected Areas and in the "Pink Zones", he said. The third option, to leave UNPROFOR in place with no change in mandate, would need the Croatian Government's permission to delay restoration of Croatian authority in the United Nations Protected Areas.

The report also asked that the Security Council consider a reinforcement of UNPROFOR to monitor the cease-fire between the two parties when it comes into force. Such a reinforcement would include an additional 1800 personnel for UNPROFOR's military forces and police; two engineer companies of some 300 personnel; and 50 United Nations military observers. In the meantime, the report asks the Council to approve an unrelated strengthening of the French battalion in Sarajevo by a further 150 soldiers.

On the financing of UNPROFOR, the Secretary-General expressed his grave concern about the failure of Member States to pay their assessments to the Force in full and on time. As a result, one State had announced its intention to leave the UNPROFOR, he said.

In a related development, the Croatian Government and local Serb authorities met yesterday under United Nations auspices at Topusco, in Sector North, to sign an immediate interim cease-fire.

In other news today, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on three separate issues: Cambodia, the deployment of observers on the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the establishment of a war crimes tribunal to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations in former Yugoslavia.
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The recent eruption of hostilities between Bosnian Croat and Government forces in central Bosnia and Herzegovina involved "massive and systematic

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violations of human rights and international humanitarian law", says a new report issued today in Geneva by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

Bosnian Croat forces were conducting "deliberate and systematic ethnic cleansing", including the forced displacement and detention of civilians, arbitrary executions as well as the destruction of villages and religious sites, the report said. The fate of the civilian population of Ahmici was a particularly "shocking" application of that policy.

The peace plan, according to which Bosnia and Herzegovina would be divided into ethnic provinces, had been used in order to create ethnically homogenous areas, the report noted. The lack of international response to counter the policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Serb forces from the begining of the war, "created the precedent of impunity which has allowed them to continue and which has encouraged the Croat forces to adopt the same policy", the report concluded.

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The Human Development Report 1993 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), proposes that an economic security council be created to tackle long-term development issues, according to Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to the Administrator of the UNDP and the Report's chief architect. The council would act on such issues as poverty alleviation, drugs, the plight of refugees and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The Human Development Report, a series begun in 1990, had had a major impact on international dialogue and policy-making, with 24 countries now devising human development strategies, Mr. Haq told correspondents. The central theme of this year's Report was participation by people in their societies.

The Report dealt with the exclusion of ethnic minorities -- despite affirmative action measures -- and the profound disparities between men and womem, the Special Adviser said. The Human Development Report 1995 would be devoted exclusively to women in development because that would be the year of the World Conference on Women in Beijing.

This year's Report focused on the fact that people were not fully participating in markets; national output was increasing but jobs were decreasing, largely as a result of automation, he continued. There was also insufficient participation in Government. Many developing countries were overcentralized and political and economic power was wielded by small elites.

The Report also found that the concept of security had changed. The issue was no longer conflicts between nations, but conflicts between peoples. Security was no longer a matter of armaments, but of food, jobs and the environment, Mr. Haq went on to say. The thrust of the Report was that

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prevention was better than cure. The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 should strengthen the role of the United Nations in the socio-economic field, with a stronger mandate for economic development.

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A total of 1,400 International Polling Station Officers have been deployed throughout Cambodia after attending training courses in preparation for the elections beginning this Sunday, according to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Meanwhile, the number of polling sites in the country had been reduced because of security risks in certain provinces. The polling plan would continue to be revised in light of the security situation, the spokesman said. There would be 2,200 Civilian Police monitors participating in the polling, and the Military Component would also provide security around the sites. In addition, 38 members of the diplomatic corps in Phnom Penh and nine individuals from international organizations had been accredited as election observers as of 13 May.

The military situation was currently quiet but tense in most parts of the country, according to the spokesman. Anxiety had been bred by rumors and exaggerated reports of fighting. However, UNTAC was standing firm. "We are ready", he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to The Hague Conference on Private International Law on its one hundredth anniversary, said enhancing respect for international law was essential for international peace, cooperation and security.

The Secretary-General recalled that the General Assembly had declared the 1990s to be the Decade of International Law. The Decade aims to promote respect for the principles of international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, and the development and teaching of international law. The Hague Conference had made many contributions in the field of private international law.

The importance of the procedures governing the conduct of nations had been brought home by the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, the wars in parts of the former Soviet Union and the atrocities committed in the former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General said. He noted that for the first time in history, the international community, through the Security Council, had decided that an international war crimes tribunal should be established to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law.

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The Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), concluding its first

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session at Headquarters last week, decided that the Conference should be held in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995.

To continue preparing for the Conference, the Preparatory Committee scheduled three more sessions: 17 to 21 January 1994 in New York; 12 to 16 September 1994 in Geneva; and 23 to 27 January 1995 in New York.

During the session, the Preparatory Committee considered organizational and procedural matters and heard statements on substantive issues relating to the NPT and the 1995 Conference. The Committee also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate a provisional Secretary-General of the Conference. Of the 157 States parties to the NPT, 128 participated in the session.

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